

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) An electronic couponing method comprising the steps of:

wirelessly transferring by pushing coupon information including a coupon identification (ID) number to a first portable terminal and storing the coupon information therein, said coupon information entitles the carrier of the coupon information to a discount on the purchase of goods and/or services, said pushing being performed without requiring action by the first portable terminal;

permitting a user of the first portable terminal to initiate a coupon matching sequence in the first portable terminal that compares the stored coupon information with wireless transmissions of promotions in effect at a retail outlet when entered and if a match occurs granting discounts on goods and services or other benefits to the user;

wirelessly transferring at least part of the stored coupon information corresponding to granted discounts on goods and services resulting from said coupon matching sequence including the coupon ID number from the first portable terminal to another terminal for redemption during a transaction;

validating in the another terminal the transferred coupon information if the coupon information corresponds to any of the goods and/or services involved in the transaction;

if the coupon information is validated, calculating the discount provided by the coupon information to the purchase of goods and/or services.

2. (Previously Presented) An electronic couponing method comprising the steps of:

wirelessly transferring by pushing coupon information including a coupon identification (ID) number to a first portable terminal and storing the coupon information therein, said coupon information entitles the carrier of the coupon information to a discount on the purchase of goods and/or services, said pushing being performed without requiring action by the first portable terminal;

permitting a user of the first portable terminal to initiate a coupon matching sequence in the first portable terminal that compares the stored coupon information with wireless

transmissions of promotions in effect at a retail outlet when entered and if a match occurs granting discounts on goods and services or other benefits to the user; and

wirelessly transferring at least part of the stored coupon information corresponding to granted discounts on goods and services resulting from said coupon matching sequence including the coupon ID number from the first portable terminal to a second portable terminal to effect wider distribution of the coupon information so as to permit users of each of said first and second portable terminals to redeem said coupon information during different transactions.

3. (Previously Presented) An electronic couponing system comprising: a first portable terminal having a memory;

a first transfer unit for wirelessly transferring by pushing coupon information including a coupon identification (ID) number to said first portable terminal, said first portable terminal storing the coupon information in said memory thereof, said coupon information entitles the carrier of the coupon information to a discount on the purchase of goods and/or services, said pushing being performed without requiring action by the first portable terminal;

a display disposed within said first portable terminal for displaying a representation of said transferred coupon information from said first portable terminal;

means for permitting a user of the first portable terminal to initiate a coupon matching sequence in the first portable terminal that compares the stored coupon information with wireless transmissions of promotions in effect at a retail outlet when entered and if a match occurs granting discounts on goods and services or other benefits to the user; and

a second transfer unit for wirelessly transferring at least part of said stored coupon information corresponding to granted discounts on goods and services resulting from said coupon matching sequence including the coupon ID number to another terminal for redemption during a transaction,

wherein said another terminal validates transferred coupon information if the coupon information corresponds to any of the goods and/or services involved in the transaction, and if the coupon information is validated, calculates the discount provided by the coupon information to the purchase of goods and/or services.

4. (Previously Presented) An electronic couponing system comprising: a first portable terminal having a memory;

a first transfer unit for wirelessly transferring by pushing coupon information including a coupon identification (ID) number to said portable terminal, said portable terminal storing the coupon information in said memory thereof, said coupon information entitles the carrier of the coupon information to a discount on the purchase of goods and/or services, said pushing being performed without requiring action by the first portable terminal;

a display disposed within said first portable terminal for displaying a representation of said transferred coupon information;

means for permitting a user of the first portable terminal to initiate a coupon matching sequence in the first portable terminal that compares the stored coupon information with wireless transmissions of promotions in effect at a retail outlet when entered and if a match occurs granting discounts on goods and services or other benefits to the user;

a second portable terminal; and

a second transfer unit for wirelessly transferring at least part of said stored coupon information corresponding to granted discounts on goods and services resulting from said coupon matching sequence including the coupon ID number from said first portable terminal to said second portable terminal to effect wider distribution of the coupon information so as to permit users of each of said first and second portable terminals to redeem said coupon information during different transactions.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least part of the coupon information is transferred to the first portable terminal with a Bluetooth radio link.

7. (currently Canceled).

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein at least part of the coupon information is transferred from the Internet to the first portable terminal via a wireless link.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least part of the stored coupon information is transferred from the first portable terminal to another portable terminal via a Bluetooth radio link.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least part of the stored coupon information is transferred from the first portable terminal to another terminal via an infrared link.

Claim 12 (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~7~~ 1, wherein at least part of the stored coupon information is transferred from the first portable to another terminal via the Internet via a wireless link.

Claim 14 (Canceled).

15. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein at least part of the coupon information is transferred to the first portable terminal with a Bluetooth radio link.

Claim 16 (Canceled).

17. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein at least part of the coupon information is transferred from the Internet to the first portable terminal via a wireless link.

18. (currently Canceled).

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~18~~ 2, wherein at least part of the stored coupon information is transferred from the first portable terminal to a second portable terminal via the Internet via a wireless link.

20. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein at least part of the stored coupon information is transferred from the first portable terminal to a second portable terminal via an infrared link.

21. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein at least part of the stored coupon information is transferred from the first portable terminal to a second portable terminal via a Bluetooth radio link.

Claims 22 and 23 (Canceled).

24. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein said first transfer unit comprises a Bluetooth radio link.

Claim 25 (Canceled).

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~25~~ 2, wherein said first transfer unit further comprises a wireless link.

Claim 27 (Canceled).

28. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein said second transfer unit comprises a Bluetooth radio link.

29. (Original) The system of claim 3, wherein said second transfer unit comprises an infrared link.

Claim 30 (Canceled).

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~30~~ 3, wherein said second transfer unit further comprises a wireless link.

Claim 32 (Canceled).

33. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein said first transfer unit comprises a Bluetooth radio link.

Claim 34 (Canceled).

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~33~~ 3, wherein said first transfer unit further comprises a wireless link.

Claim 36 (Canceled).

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~36~~ 4, wherein said second transfer unit further comprises a wireless link.

38. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein said second transfer unit comprises an infrared link.

39. (Original) The system of claim 4, wherein said second transfer unit comprises a Bluetooth radio link.

Claim 40 (Canceled).

41. (Previously Presented) An electronic couponing method comprising the steps of:

wirelessly transferring by pushing coupon information including a coupon identification (ID) number to a first portable terminal and storing the coupon information therein, said coupon information entitled the carrier of the coupon information to a discount on the purchase of goods and/or services, said pushing being performed without requiring action by the first portable terminal;

displaying a representation of the transferred coupon information on the first portable terminal;

permitting a user of the first portable terminal to initiate a coupon matching sequence in the first portable terminal that compares the stored coupon information, with wireless transmissions of promotions in effect at a retail outlet when entered and if a match occurs granting discounts on goods and services or other benefits to the user;

wirelessly transferring at least part of the stored coupon information corresponding to granted discounts on goods and services resulting from said coupon matching sequence including the coupon ID number from the first portable terminal to another terminal for redemption during a transaction;

validating in the another terminal the transferred coupon information if the coupon information corresponds to any of the goods and/or services involved in the transaction;

if the coupon information is validated, calculating the discount provided by the coupon information to the purchase of goods and/or services; and

wirelessly transferring at least part of the stored coupon information including the coupon ID number from the first portable terminal to a second portable terminal to effect wider distribution of the coupon information so as to permit users of each of said first and second portable terminals to redeem said coupon information during different transactions.

42. (Previously Presented) An electronic couponing system comprising:

a first portable terminal having a memory;

a first transfer unit for wirelessly transferring by pushing coupon information including a coupon identification (ID) number to said first portable terminal, said first portable terminal storing the coupon information in said memory thereof, said coupon information entitles the carrier of the coupon information to a discount on the purchase of goods and/or services, said pushing being performed without requiring action by the first portable terminal;

a display disposed within said first portable terminal for displaying a representation of said transferred coupon information;

means for permitting a user of the first portable terminal to initiate a coupon matching sequence in the first portable terminal that, compares the stored coupon information with wireless transmissions of promotions in effect at a retail outlet when entered and if a match occurs granting discounts on goods and services or other benefits to the user;

a second transfer unit for wirelessly transferring at least part of said stored coupon information corresponding to granted discounts on goods and services resulting from said coupon matching sequence including the coupon ID number from said first portable terminal to another terminal for redemption during a transaction,

wherein said another terminal validates the transferred coupon information if the coupon information corresponds to any of the goods and/or services involved in the transaction, and if the coupon information is validated, calculating the discount provided by the coupon information to the purchase of goods and/or services;

a second portable terminal; and

a third transfer unit for transferring at least part said stored coupon information including the coupon ID number from said first portable terminal to said second portable terminal to effect wider distribution of the coupon information so as to permit users of each of said first and second portable terminals to redeem said coupon information during different transactions.

Claims 43-58 (Canceled).